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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
SUBJECT	Travel Documentation and Controls in North Korea 25X1	DATE DISTR.	28 September 1953
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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SOURCE:

1. Close investigation of civilian travelers began in early May 1953, when it became impossible to travel without an order issued in the name of the chief of the administration.¹ The number of check points under the control of the Chinese Communists had been increased, and travel orders were being written in Chinese characters so that they could be read by the Chinese.
2. In March 1953 an official announcement was made at a people's assembly in Sep'o to the effect that no civilian would be allowed to travel outside his own village without a travel certificate. This travel certificate was to be issued by the local police substation chief, and was to be based on written certification from the chairman of the village people's committee. In June 1953 this regulation was being enforced in areas along the east coast.
3. The regulation specified that travel certificates were to be issued for a period of 10 days or less, and anyone who wished to travel for a longer time would be required to change his certificate for a new one at any police substation. In such cases the traveler would be required to identify himself by showing his identification card, his citizenship certificate, his military service certificate, and his political party membership certificate if applicable.
4. All travelers were to be checked at civilian self-guard check points, each of which was to be manned by four or five armed civilian self-guard unit members. In June 1953, there were check points at the following places:

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- a. At P'ungjung-ni (N 39-53, E 127-49) (CV-9915) at point CV-995153.
 - b. Near P'ungjung-ni, at point CV-998154.
 - c. In the vicinity of Honam-ni (N 39-50, E 127-50) (DV-0015) and Tongsang-ni (N 39-50, E 127-50) (DV-0015) at points DV-001154, DV-007156, and DV-016147.
 - d. At Kumho-ri (N 39-53, E 127-51) (DV-0215) at point DV-021153.
5. In early June 1953, public employees were permitted to travel as long as authorized in their travel orders. A merchant's travel authorization was good only for 3 months, and ordinary citizens' travel authorization was only good for 10 days. A person desiring to travel had to apply for his travel permit at a police sub-station, and had to apply 24 hours prior to his expected departure. Ordinary citizens usually had to wait from 3 to 5 days for their permits. Travel regulations provided that persons, desiring to travel, were to be issued a permit as soon as they applied. However, southbound travelers had to undergo a thorough investigation, whereas northbound travelers received their permits without much formality.

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1.  Comment. The chief of the local people's committee is probably intended.

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